

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CSAF

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY - AIR FORCE SUB-GROUP

REF: A. USNATO 4219

B. STATE 175090

C. THE HAGUE 3975

WE ARE NOT AT ALL ENCOURAGED BY

ATTITUDE TOWARD SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES ON PART OF
OTHER COUNTRIES. THE SHRINKAGE OF OBJECTIVES THAT HAS AL-
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READY OCCURRED AS MEASURED AGAINST US PROPOSED TOR OR

EVEN ORIGINAL DUTCH TOR, IS DISAPPOINTING. IT MAY WELL BE THAT DEVELOPING AN IDEAL COMPOSITION OF AIR FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION IS TOO TIME CONSUMING A TASK FOR THIS SUBGROUP TO ACHIEVE BY LATE OCTOBER. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD RE-EMPHASIZE POINT IN PARA 1 OF REF B THAT DUTCH SPECIALIZATION IN AIRCRAFT AND MISSIONS SHOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL TASKS DUTCH WILLING TO SHOULDER TO PERMIT EQUITABLE DIVISION OF LABOR AND COSTS. IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT "OTHER NATIONS WILL COVER VOIDS CREATED BY DUTCH SPECIALIZATION" IN ABSENCE OF CONCRETE COMPENSATING MEASURES BY DUTCH IN OTHER AREAS. IN FACT, THE MOST CAREFUL ORCHESTRATION OF CHANGES IN MISSION AND IN AIR FORCE LEVELS WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO PREVENT DEBILITATING NATO'S TACTICAL AIR CAPABILITIES. YOU SHOULD UNDERLINE AS

OFTEN AS NECESSARY THAT, AS MOD VREDELING SAID DURING VISIT HERE, SPECIALIZATION STUDY IS NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A MEANS FOR DIMINUTION OF DEFENSE EFFORTS BY ANY COUNTRY. RUSH

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